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Philip Wylie has written an interesting and unusual murder and espionage story, "The Spy Who Spoke Porpoise," (Doubleday & Co., 312 pages).

Ringling Wallenda Grove is a semi-retired millionaire, former circus performer and former World War II master spy.

The President of the United States has reason to feel uneasy about the head of the CIA and, by chance, encounters Grove and seeks his help.

Grove's assignment from the President takes him to Hawaii, where he sets up housekeeping near Sea Life Park and Oceanic Institute.

He soon is enmeshed in a Russian plot and has a deadly encounter with an old enemy. The final chase scene is tense and nightmarish.

It's a good story for espionage fans weary of the James Bond nonsense and the unrelieved grimness of so many other modern spy stories.